

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached are two sheets of replacement drawings, which include changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9. These attached sheets replace the two original sheets of drawings filed with the present application. Figs. 1, 2 and 3 have been amended to substitute the label "Prior Art" for the original label "art antérieur." In Figs. 8 and 9, the previously omitted reference numeral 24 has been added.

Also attached are two annotated sheets of drawings showing the above-described changes.

REMARKS**I. Status Of The Claims**

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-12 have been amended. Claims 1-12 have been amended to correct various informalities, including the format of the preamble, and to provide consistent references to limitations. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to delete a redundant recitation of the “reflector” limitation. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

II. Objections To The Drawings

In the October 18, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner noted that Figures 1-3 of the present application are labeled “art antérieur” instead of “Prior Art.” The Examiner objected to the Figures because each of the reference numerals “26” and “34” are recited in the specification with regard to two different features of the present invention. The Examiner also objected to Figures 8 and 9 because they do not include reference numeral “24” as described on pages 14 and 15 of the specification.

In response to the Examiner’s comments and objections, Applicants submit herewith a set of corrected drawing sheets. Figures 1-3 have been amended to substitute the label “Prior Art” for the original label “art antérieur.” In addition, Figures 8 and 9 have been amended to include reference numeral 24 to identify the “rear peripheral portion 24” as described in the specification at pages 14 and 15.

The Examiner’s objections under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) derive from two typographical errors in the specification: (1) the recitation to “optical axis 26” at page 10 of the specification and (2) the recitation to “rear peripheral portion 34” at page 14 of the specification. Applicant have amended the specification to correct these typographical errors so that the specification recites “optical axis 28” at page 10 and “rear peripheral portion 24” at page 14.

III. Objections To The Specification

The disclosure of the present application was objected to because of an apparent informality in the title. Specifically, the Examiner noted that the title should read "Light guide equipped with reflectors." Applicant respectfully submits that the application as filed was entitled "Light guide equipped with reflectors" and request clarification from the Examiner with regard to the nature of this objection.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention because the phrase "of the type" recited in claim 1 is vague and indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 1 to delete this phrase. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now rendered moot.

Claims 1-12 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention because the term "reflector line" recited in claim 1 lacks sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the term "director line" in place of the term "reflector line." Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

V. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Windross U.S. Patent No. 5,295,047 ("Windross '047").

The Examiner asserted that Windross '047 discloses a light guide [Figure 1: (16)] having at least one portion with a roughly circular vertical transverse elementary section [Figure 1: (25)] along a director line [Figure 1: (A)]. The Examiner further asserted that the roughly circular vertical transverse elementary section [Figure 1: (25)] comprises a front

peripheral lighting portion [Figure 1: (16B)], a rear peripheral portion [Figure 1: (16C)] and a principal optical axis [Figure 1: (A)]. In addition, the Examiner asserted Windross ‘047 discloses a light source [Figure 1: (14)] emitting light rays which enter at least one end face [Figure 1: (24)] of light guide so as to be channeled through the length of the light guide. Finally, the Examiner asserted that Windross ‘047 discloses a rear reflector [Figure 2: (26’)] situated opposite the rear light-diffusion segment [Figure 1: (16C)] along the principal optical axis [Figure 1: (A)], which reflects towards the inside of the elementary section [Figure 1: (25)] the light rays that are diffused towards the rear by the rear light-diffusion segment [Figure 1: (16C)] so that they are refracted through the front peripheral lighting portion.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that Windross ‘047 does not disclose each and every limitation of the invention as recited in claims 1-6. First, Windross ‘047 does not disclose, teach or suggest a light guide having a “rear light-diffusion segment” as recited in the pending claims. Applicant notes that the Examiner’s rejection of claim 1 identifies feature 16C of Windross ‘047 as corresponding to the rear light-diffusion segment limitation of claim 1. In the rejections of claims 2-6 the Examiner identifies feature 16B as shown in Figure 1 of Windross ‘047 as corresponding to the claimed rear light-diffusion segment. However, in the rejection of claim 1 the Examiner identifies this same feature 16B in Figure 1 of Windross ‘047 as corresponding to the front peripheral portion limitation recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that neither feature 16B nor feature 16C as shown in Figure 1 of Windross ‘047 corresponds to the rear light diffusion segment as recited in the pending claims. As expressly stated in Windross ‘047, features 16A, 16B and 16C are the three sides of the lightpipe 16 for transmitting by internal reflection the received light lengthwise through the transparent interior of the main body 18 from the input end surface 24 toward end surface 25 at the other opposite end 18C of the main body 18.” Windross ‘047 at Col. 4, lns. 2-12.

The light guide of the present invention includes a rear light-diffusion segment that diffuses the light rays in all directions, including toward the rear of the light guide. Windross '047 does not include any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that lightpipe 16 includes any such light-diffusion segment. Rather, Windross '047 simply discloses that lightpipe 16 includes a reflective surface 26 on the apex formed by sides 16A and 16B. Windross states that "reflective surface 26 receives the light transmitted by internal reflection through the main body 18 from the input end surface 24 and reflects the light in a generally perpendicular direction relative to the reflective surface 26 therefrom toward the integral optical lens 20." Windross '047 at Col. 4, lns. 32-37.

In addition, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6 provides that longitudinal axis "A" as shown in Figure 1 of Windross '047 constitutes both the "director line" and the "principal optical axis" limitations recited in the pending claims. Applicant respectfully submits that longitudinal axis "A" of Windross '047 does not satisfy both of these limitations.

Applicant further submits that end surface 25 of lightpipe 16 shown in Figure 1 of Windross '047 does not satisfy the "roughly circular vertical transverse elementary section" limitation recited in the pending claims. As shown in Figure 1 of Windross '047, end surface 25 is a truncated triangle.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1948-4834**. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1948-4834**. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 24, 2006

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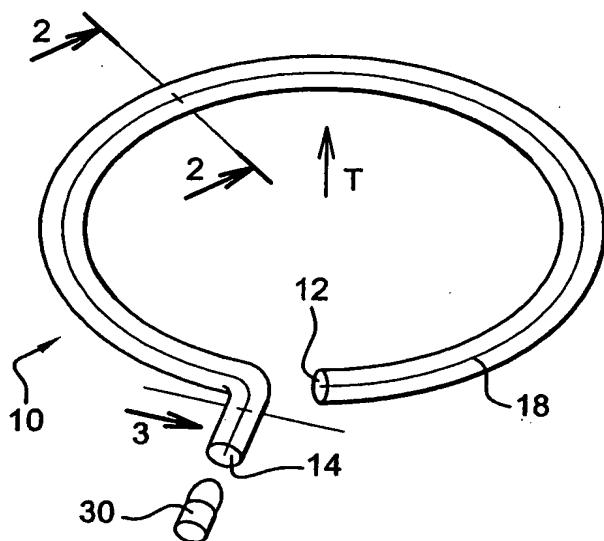


Fig. 1

Prior Art

"Prior Art" substituted
for "art antérieur"

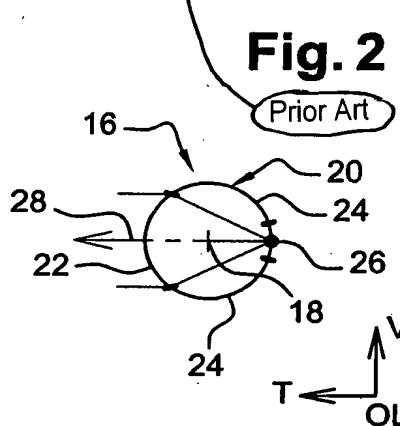


Fig. 2

Prior Art

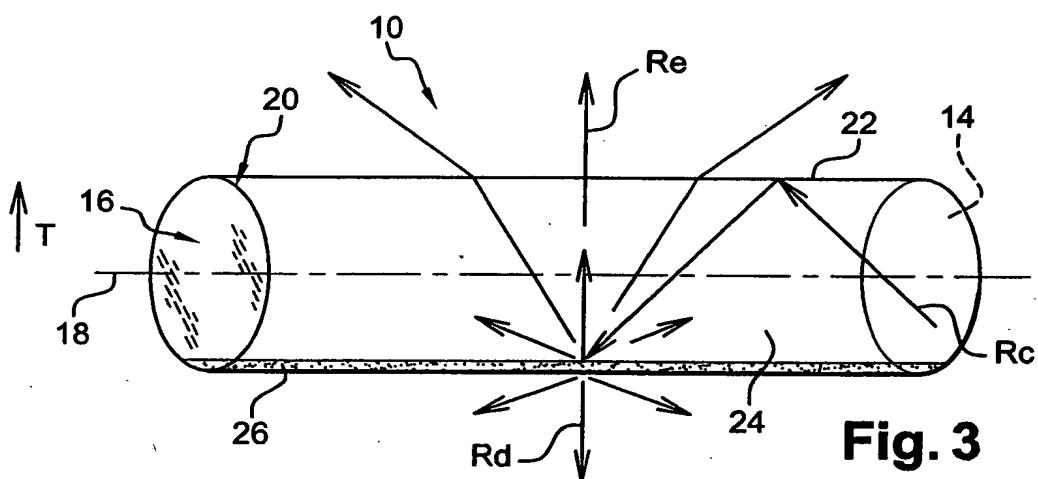


Fig. 3

Prior Art

"Prior Art" substituted
for "art antérieur"

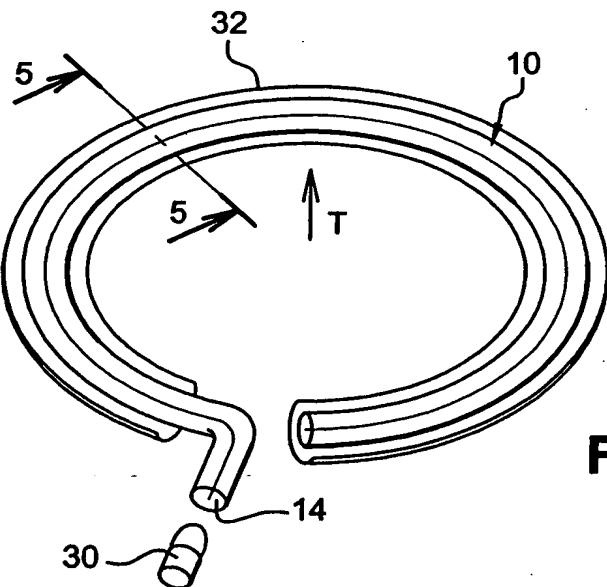


Fig. 4

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